

March 9, 2015

A regular meeting of the Board of Sewer & Water Commissioners was held on Monday, March 9, 2015 at 7:00 p.m., at the Edward J. Delaney Water Treatment Plant, 1303 Washington Street.

Present: John Spillane, Roger Turner, Patrick Fasanello and William Abbott. Also, Rick Mattson, Supt. of Sewer and Water

Mr. Abbott suggested a few minor corrections to the minutes. **Motion Made** by Roger Turner to accept the minutes of February 23, 2015 with the corrections suggested by Mr. Abbott. Second by William Abbott. Vote 4-0-0.

Mr. Viano arrived at the meeting this time and says he is here to answer any questions the Board might have regarding the OSRD Special Permit on North Street that is on the agenda.

### **SUPERINTENDENT'S STATUS REPORT**

Mr. Mattson reports that there have been 8 water main leaks, 3 damaged hydrants and 5 frozen services. He would like to commend his crew for their stepping up in the bitter cold and getting the job done as quickly as possible. Mr. Spillane asks about the hydrant at Montrose Park and Mr. Mattson responds that this needs to be replaced as well as on West Street. He says once the frost is out of the ground they will do this work. Mr. Mattson says of the 5 frozen services, they have gotten 3 back the other two are not so fortunate. He is hoping they will come back under their own power. He then tells that Mr. Spillane and Mr. Abbott attended the Finance Committee meeting with him and things were quite favorable. He says FinCom has requested that consideration be given to borrowing for capital projects rather than using our retained earnings and he has asked the Finance Director to come tonight to discuss the options. He then tells that the I/I money that was voted at last town meeting was wired to the Town last Thursday and the design is underway and Phase 8 construction will start in the spring.

Mr. Moraski arrived at this time.

Mr. Mattson says the Finance Director has asked us to change our commercial billing to the same as residential instead of monthly for the commercial accounts. Mr. Fasanello says no, he would rather have all accounts monthly. He says according to the MWRA monthly bills use less water because they have a better handle on what is being used. Mr. Fasanello says he does not want to change and under the Town Charter it is our decision and it should not change without getting our approval. Mr. Abbott asks if the commercial accounts want monthly bills and Mr. Fasanello says it is a better revenue stream. Mr. Mattson mentions the costs that would be incurred for additional bills, stamps etc. Mr. Fasanello would like to see the comparison of costs and compares gas and electric bills that are monthly. Mr. Spillane asks Mr. Mattson to get the difference in costs and revenue stream between monthly and the current billing method. Mr. Mattson then talks about the High Plain Street tank site. After discussion the Board is in agreement that Option #2 would be the best. This option would mean the Tier Classification Submittal would not be completed, the site would be assigned a Tier 1D Status which would incur a compliance fee and it would buy the Town an additional 90 days. **Motion Made** by John Spillane to go with Option #2 as discussed but to also request that the DEP allow a waiver to the date due to the extra ordinary weather event. Second by William Abbott. Vote 4-0-0. Another item Mr. Mattson has to update the Board with is the money appropriated for the Duffy tank. He says we ran out of time so we will be recoating in April or May and adding a mixing system. Mr. Mattson then says the Board of Appeals has invited this Commission to their next meeting as Barberry Homes will be

discussed and they are looking for our input. The Commission is in agreement that they already did this and their comments were not taken.

### **CONCOM REQUEST FOR COMMENTS, NOI, FOR 7 LOTS ON LACIVITA DR.**

The NOI's are for Lots 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, and 9. Mr. Spillane asks why we have this request as it doesn't affect us at all and Mr. Mattson responds that this is common practice. Sewer is discussed and Mr. Fasanello says he would like to see an easement for water and sewer. Mr. Mattson says he believes this is a done deal. There is further discussion. Mr. Fasanello would like to see a letter go to the ConCom stating that there should be utility easement at the end of lot #6 to Eldor Drive. This will be done.

### **PB REQUEST FOR COMMENTS OSRD SPECIAL PERMIT NORTH ST. (SUNNYROCK II)**

Plans and information provided are reviewed and discussed. Mr. Fasanello says he would like easements to enable Fisher Street to have access to sewer. Mr. Viano says this won't be a problem but he thought it would be more appropriate to ask for this when he comes back for subdivision approval. Mr. Moraski speaks of the force main that was approved by this Board and there is some discussion. Mr. Fasanello would still like a memo sent to the Planning Board as he previously stated that easements and a stub should be investigated to enable sewer access on Fisher Street and to concur with the Town Engineers comments. This will be done.

### **PB & CONCOM REQUEST FOR COMMENTS SOLAR FARM, 100 NEPONSET ST**

Mr. Fasanello states that the solar energy is taken by plants so that vegetation and groundwater is affected. Mr. Turner feels we need to know the migration of the water here. Mr. Spillane says this is a passive project. Discussion is held with regard to testing and test wells and "daylighting" from Ruck-A-Duck to the Neponset River. **Motion Made** by John Spillane to concur with the comments of the Director of Economic Development and the Town Engineer. Second by William Abbott. Vote 4-0-0.

### **7:15 FUNDING OF CAPITAL PROJECTS**

Finance Director, Marilyn Thompson, is present for this discussion. Mr. Mattson says he asked her to come to the meeting so they can discuss looking at borrowing for capital improvements. Ms. Thompson explains when and why short term borrowing would be used and says she would never use this for a large amount as you would end up paying interest again when it was bonded. She would probably use it if the cost was under \$200,000. Mr. Mattson says the Finance Committee was concerned with our using too much of our retained earnings and asked us to at least look at the idea of borrowing. There is discussion on how much is currently borrowed. Mr. Mattson says the Bonding Company recommends retained earnings be at 10% of our budget. Ms. Thompson is asked what she felt would be a comfortable number and she says \$550,000. The question is asked sewer retained earnings could be transferred to water retained earnings and it is determined that the Town Accountant would have to answer this. Mr. Spillane asks if the money that was scheduled to be used to help fund the new police/fire stations was returned to our retained earnings and the answer is that it was never taken since it never passed. Mr. Mattson says the capital is included in Article 7 so if it fails there would have to be sub-motions to get the projects done. He adds, that although the debt will drop off new will be added and there are some large money projects coming up like the pipe project and the dioxane. The Board is in agreement that they want to use retained earnings for the \$310,000 capital. Mr. Moraski says he would still like to know if it is legal to use sewer retained earnings for water projects. Mr. Spillane says then the sewer customers would be paying for water projects. Mr. Mattson says you could borrow from yourself. There is discussion regarding this matter. Mr. Fasanello says the people currently on sewer in

town are paying for everyone not on sewer and he explains how this is. Mr. Mattson say another option is the capital can be taken out and a line for strictly capital can be put in the budget if they chose to fund their capital this way. Mr. Spillane asks if the Finance Committee has the right to change our choice of financing and Mr. Mattson says they are not interested in changing it, they just asked for us to look at it. **Motion Made** by John Spillane to stay with using retained earnings for the \$310,000 needed for our capital projects. Second by William Abbott. Vote 4-0-0. Mr. Abbott suggests that if added \$1 to our water rate the retained earnings can go back to \$550,000 quicker. Mr. Spillane is not comfortable with doing this right now as the people will get hit this year for the purchase of Jarvis Farm and the like to try to keep any increase at about 2%. Mr. Moraski asks if Jarvis Farm is sewerred and Mr. Mattson says no but it will be, as it is a requirement of the DEP in order for it to have been purchased.

#### **ATTORNEY GENERAL'S APPROVALS FOR FATM ARTICLES**

Read and noted.

#### **DEPT OF LABOR STANDARDS WARNING AND ORDER TO CORRECT**

Mr. Mattson says this was a freak accident and the letter states what they found when they visited. All is set now.

#### **REQUEST FOR RECORDS, HANOVER INSURANCE/WALPOLE CO-OPERATIVE BANK**

Mr. Mattson tells that any data we had regarding this has already been provided but there is not a lot.

#### **AL MARHAMA ISLAMIC CEMETERY SOIL BORINGS & MONITOR WELL INFO.**

Mr. Mattson says this is the cemetery report that their consultants (Sage) has provided to our consultants. Ours was not pleased and asked for additional information which they have since provided however our consultants have not yet reviewed it.

#### **JARVIS FARM**

A request for committee volunteers is being advertised in the local newspaper for two weeks. The Board will wait to see what they get for applications before making a decision.

**Motion Made** by Patrick Fasanello to adjourn. Second by John Spillane. Vote 4-0-0. Meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

*Accepted April 13, 2015*